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Development (1948.) Department.

Ms. SERIES.

G.O. No. 3678.

Dated 10th July 1948.

[Despatch Abstract.]

Madras Legislative Council- Starred question No. 110

Fisheries- Fish Curing yards- Issue price of Salt- Enhancement- Reporting-

Issue price of salt

* 84 Q Sri R.Suryanarayana Rao:- Will the Hon. the Minister for Rural Development be pleased to state:-

a. what the present issue of price of salt is in curing yards of the West Coast and the East Coast;

b. whether the present rate is an enhanced rate and if so, when the rate was enhanced;

c. whether the Government are aware that the issue price of salt remained the same from 1924 to 1945;

d. (1) What the reasons are for the enhancement in 1945 and (2) a further enhancement in 1947 and (3) that too only on the West Coast;

e. how does the market price of salt compare with the issue price in the fish curing yards;

f. whether it is a fact that the fish-curing yards on the West Coast have been working at a profit since their inception;

g. whether the Government consider the curing and sale of fish as a part of the "Grow More Food" Campaign?

The Hon. Dr. T.S. Rajan (on behalf of Hon. the Minister for Rural Development) " a. The issue price of salt in the fish curing yards In the West Coast is Rs. 2-8-0 per maund and in East Coast is Rs 1-14-0 per maund.

b. The present rate of Rs.2-8-0 on the West Coast is an enhancement over the rate of Rs.1.14.0 fixed in the previous season- This rate came into force from 15th December 1947.

c. Yes, Sir.

d. ~~If~~ (1) to minimize the anticipated loss to Government on account of the working of the fish-curing yards.

2. The present market price of salt in the West Coast ranges from Rs.2-4-0 to ~~Rs.1-14-0~~ Rs. 4.4.0 per maund, while the market price of salt in the East Coast varies from Rs. 1-5-2 to Rs. 5-8-9 per maund. The rate was enhanced to mitigate the heavy loss incurred by Government in maintaining the yards.

3. The estimated consumption of salt during 1947-48 season is 311,000 maunds on the West Coast as against the estimated consumption of 38,666 maunds in the East Coast. The rate has therefore to be increased in the West Coast fish curing yards as a safeguard against the heavy loss anticipated which is estimated at Rs. 2,71,875 during the current season.

e. The market price of salt on the West Coast varies from Rs.2.4.0 to Rs. 4.4.0 per maund while the issue price of salt has been fixed at Rs. 2-8-0 per maund on the West Coast.

The market price on the East Coast varies from Rs. 1-5-2 to Rs- 5.8.0 per maund and the issue price of salt in the East Coast is Rs. 1-14-0 per manud

f. No Sir,

g. Yes Sir,

Sri R.Suryanarayana Rao:- "In view of the fact that the Government recognize that the development of fisheries is necessary and that fish is an article of food, why should not Government encourage the curing of fish by giving salt at a cheaper rate?

The Hon. Dr. T.S.S. Rajan- "The Government can do that only by a subsidy to the industry and not by reducing the price of salt

Sri R.Suryanarayana Rao- In view of the fact that fish is an article of food, is not a subsidy justifiable in these days?

The Hon. Dr T.S.S. Rajan:- "It is not a question of the fact that subsidy. The question raised was whether it should not be treated as subsidfood. Of course Government will have to consider whether it can be treated as subsidiary food. The price of salt supplied has been debited to the fish curing yards. which were working at a loss. Nearly two lakhs of rupees have to be made up, and that is why prices were put up. If the question raised refers to subsidiary food, that will have to be considered by the Government'

Sri R.Suryanarayana Rao: Was not loss being incurred all these years?

The Hon. Dr. T.S.S. Rajan: "It is because they wanted to encourage the curing of fish. That encouragement has brough about greater consumption of salt and there was loss. That is why the loss is being made up by a higher price. It is a question of treating fish as subsidiary food, food subsidies must be offered to it". The price of salt is not to be reduced"

Sri R.Suryanarayana Rao:- "May I know, Sir, whether the Government consider fish as food?

Mr. President:- I take it that it has been answered"

The Hon. Dr. T.S.S. Rajan. We consider fish as food, Sir,

Br Sir A.Lakshmanaswami Mudaliyar:- "Do the Government have appetite for fish?

The Hon. Dr.T.S.S. Rajan:- "Government certainly have appetite for all foodstuffs, because we are lacking in food"

Mr. President:- I do not know if the hon. Member means any particular member of the Government (Laughter)

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To A.S

Please see the printed proceedings of the Legislative Council on pp 4-5 above. No further action seems necessary. The papers may now be recorded.

G.O. Ms. No. 5678 Dev. dated 10-7-48

Sub:- Madras Legislative Council- Starred question No. 110 Fisheries- Fish Curing yards- Issue price of Salt- Enhancement- Recorded-

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Superintendent
Madras Record Office.